

REMARKS

Claim 74 is the only claim pending in the present Application.

Formal Matters

With respect to the references requested in the Office Action, an Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted herewith together with copies of some of the requested references. Copies of the remaining references will be submitted in a subsequent IDS to be filed shortly.

Applicant notes that the Examiner has not acknowledged review and consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated July 26, 2002. Attached to the Office Action dated May 19, 2003, the Examiner noted on the PTO-1449 form that no English-language translation of the references was filed.

Applicant wishes to point out that MPEP section 609 III A (3) provides (in relevant part) that:

where the information listed is not in the English language, but was cited in a search report or other action by a foreign pattern office, in a counter part foreign application, the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance can be satisfied by submitting English-language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

Therefore, Applicant having satisfied its obligation to provide a concise explanation of the relevance for the non-English language references submitted as part of the IDS, the Examiner is respectfully requested to review and consider the references cited in the IDS filed July 26, 2002 and to acknowledge the same.

New Matter Objection

In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to claim 74 under 35 U.S.C. §132 on the ground that a previous amendment to claim 74 introduced new matter.

Pursuant to MPEP 608.04, subject matter that is disclosed in the Specification, or in the Drawings may be added to the claims. In the Amendment filed August 18, 2003, specific portions of the Specification, in particular, portions of the Specification, page 38, were cited as support for the amendment of claim 74. In particular, the determination of the first value in **step i) refers to the value $p_a = n_o/n_b$** on page 38, lines 4-10. In view of page 38 (and also Fig. 31), value p_a (first value) is the fraction of the indexable Web covered by search engine a (first search engine); n_o is the number of overlap documents returned by both search engines a and b (first and second engines); n_b is the number of documents returned by search engine b (second search engine).

Further, the determination of the second value in **step ii) refers to the value p'_a** . The Specification discloses that $p'_a = n_a/n_6$ (page 38, lines 10-14). As shown on page 38, n_a is the number of documents returned by engine a (first search engine); n_6 is the number of overlap documents returned by the combination of all engines including engines a and b (first and second search engines). Lastly, the determination of an estimate in **step iii) refers to the value $c = p'_a / p_a$** (page 38, lines 14-16). That is, the value obtained in step ii) is divided by the value obtained in step i). Consequently, claim 74 is fully supported by Applicant's disclosure and does not introduce new matter.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 74 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Yale University Library/Internet search engine; Exercise 4: "METASEARCH ENGINES" (hereinafter: "MetaSearch Engines") and Corey et al. U. S. Patent No. 5,987,446. This rejection is traversed.

Independent claim 74 requires, *inter alia*, determining an estimate of the relative coverage of a plurality of search engines. Further, claim 74 requires, *inter alia*, determining a search value equal to the overlap number of pages in the list of results corresponding to each of the first and second search engines. Moreover, claim 74 requires, *inter alia*, determining an estimate of the relative coverage of the plurality of search engines by dividing the second value by the first value.

MetaSearch Engines discloses using several search engines and meta-engines to search the web for information on a topic using keywords and Boolean searching.

MetaSearch Engines does not disclose or suggest determining an estimate of the relative coverage of a plurality of search engines, let alone the remaining above-cited features of claim 74, and the Examiner acknowledges that MetaSearch Engines does not disclose or suggest these features. However, the Examiner alleges that Corey discloses these features.

Corey discloses searching a large collection of text using multiple search engines concurrently. In particular, Corey discloses an information retrieval system in which different computational searching techniques are used to search for information.

Corey also discloses determining the relevance of retrieved information and ranking the information retrieved.

First, Corey does not disclose or suggest determining an estimate of the relative coverage of a plurality of search engines. Further Corey does not disclose or suggest determining a first value equal to an overlap number of pages in the list of results corresponding to each of the first and second search engines.

Moreover, since Corey does not disclose or suggest determining an estimate of the relative coverage of a plurality of search engines, Corey is incapable of disclosing or suggesting determining an estimate of the relative coverage of a plurality of search engines by dividing the second value by the first value, as claimed in independent claim 74. Therefore, the cited prior art, namely, MetaSearch Engines and Corey, even if taken together as a whole, does not disclose or suggest the features of independent claim 74.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the pending claim and allow the Application. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment or the present Application generally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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